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81

General Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen

OF THE CITY OF NEW-YORK.

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

Treasurer and Standing Committees.

Annual Report of the Society.

ASSETS OF THE SOCIETY.

ESTIMATE OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

New-York:

JOHN W. AMERMAN, PRINTER,
No. 47 CEDAR STREET.

1875.

Officers of the Society for 1875.

WILLIAM OTIS MUNROE, *President*, 1308 Broadway.

HAVILAH M. SMITH, *First Vice-President*, 61 Perry Street.

EDWIN DOBBS, *Second Vice-President*, *Exchange*, 27 Park Place.

DANIEL D. WRIGHT, *Treasurer*, 463 East Houston Street.

THOMAS EARLE, *Secretary*, 472 Broadway.

ENOCH STRATTON, *Collector*, 472 Broadway.

General Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen OF THE CITY OF NEW-YORK.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TREASURER.

RECEIPTS.

Balance from 1873,.....	\$55 73
Rents—Broadway and Park Place,.....	24,100 00
" Chambers-street,.....	3,000 00
" Mechanics' Hall,.....	1,813 33
Dividend on Mechanics' National Bank stock,.....	2,027 50
Interest, in gold, on U. S Stocks,.....	2,100 00
" in currency, "	480 00
" on call loans,.....	100 25
Premium on Gold,.....	233 23
U. S. Trust Company,.....	12,500 00
Memberships,.....	900 00
Certificates,.....	5 00
 Total receipts,.....	 \$47,315 04

DISBURSEMENTS.

Committees—Finance,.....	\$2,750 00
Pension,.....	8,000 00
Library,.....	10,300 00
Literary and Scientific,.....	1,000 00
School,.....	2,375 00
Building and Sinking Fund,.....	5,325 25
Ground Rent, Chambers-street,.....	125 00
Taxes and Croton water, Mechanics' Hall,.....	1,901 00
Addition to Burial Plot,.....	533 15

U. S. Trust Company, on call,.....	\$13,000 00
Current Expenses,.....	62 60
Officers' Salaries,.....	800 00
Janitor and Doorkeeper,.....	968 00

Total disbursements,.....	\$47,140 00

Balance in Mechanics' National Bank,.....	175 04
" in Trust Company,.....	4,500 00

Total Amount in Treasury,.....	\$4,675 04

I herewith present my Annual Report, and also, in obedience to the requirements of the By-Laws, such remarks as the case seems to call for.

During the past year, a block came before the financial wheels, which, happily, is partially removed, leaving, however, apparently a permanent reduction of nearly one-eighth of the yearly income of the Society. No other matter of moment has occurred during the year in this department.

Very many members of the Society are ardently desirous of building a massive structure in a more elevated location, for the uses and purposes, and to perpetuate the name and fame of the Society. A careful review of its resources does not satisfy me that a safe way is yet open to do so; and while I dwell in warm sympathy with them, would implore them not to risk its time-honored interests by making too great haste, and to remember that it is itself a *monument*. Where will we find another Society, that has gone on its course of pure material and mental benevolence for fourscore years and a decade, and whose course is still onward?

The shores of history of this great city are strewn with the wrecks of benevolent societies that have ventured beyond their depth, been drowned, and washed ashore.

I repose undying confidence in the belief, that this Society will let prudence be its watchword, and that while it may not safely erect a *memorial of granite*, will

keep its financial walls of granite, and the roof and crown of the Society will be the blessings of the widow and of the indigent brother, whose last days are made happy, and their last pillow smoothed by its bounty ; and the thanks of the tens of thousands of youth of both sexes, who have been made mentally strong for the peaceful battle of life, by feeding at its well-spread literary board.

Respectfully submitted.

DANIEL D. WRIGHT,
Treasurer.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

RECEIPTS.

Cash on hand, Dec. 31, 1873,.....	\$521 23
“ received from D. D. Wright, Treasurer,.....	2,750 00
“ “ “ Robbins, Stone & Hyde,.....	680 00
	—————
	§3,951 23

DISBURSEMENTS.

Cash paid Repairs of Buildings,.....	\$741 55
“ “ Plumbing,.....	196 44
“ “ Advertising, Stationery and Postage,.....	101 03
“ “ Printing,.....	150 75
“ “ Gas Light,.....	1,472 32
“ “ Insurance,.....	275 00
“ “ D. D. Wright, Treasurer,.....	680 00
	—————
	3,617 09
Balance on hand, December 31st, 1874,.....	—————
	§334 14

Respectfully submitted.

JOHN T. CONOVER,
Chairman.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PENSIONS.

RECEIPTS.

1874.		
Jan'y 1.	Balance,.....	\$1,308 00
Feb'y 10.	Cash from Treasurer,.....	2,000 00
May 11.	" " "	2,000 00
Aug. 9.	" " "	2,000 00
Nov. 10.	" " "	2,000 00
		—————
		\$9,308 00

DISBURSEMENTS.

1874.		
Mar. 31.	Cash paid Pensioners,.....	\$2,296 00
June 30.	" " "	1,756 00
Sept. 30.	" " "	1,671 00
Dec. 31.	" " "	1,943 00
	" " Printing, Stationery and inci-	
	dental expenses,.....	78 00
		—————
		\$7,744 00
	Balance on hand, January 1st, 1875,.....	\$1,564 00
		—————
	Pensions paid to Members,.....	\$1,163 00
	" " Widows,.....	3,562 00
	" " Children,.....	55 00
	Donations paid to Members,.....	596 00
	" " Widows,.....	2,098 00
	Funeral expenses of Widows,.....	192 00
		—————
		\$7,666 00

Number of Pensioners—

December 31, 1873,.....	5	Members.	70	Widows.	5	Children.	Total, 80
Placed on Roll during 1874, 1	"		1	"	0	"	2
	—		—	"	—	"	—
	6	"	71	"	5	"	82
Deceased and dropped from							
Roll during 1874,.....	0	"	4	"	2	"	6
	—		—	"	—	"	—
Pensioners Dec. 31, 1874,..	6	"	67	"	3	"	76

Respectfully submitted.

ANDREW HUTTON,
Chairman.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

RECEIPTS.

Balance on hand, December 31st, 1873,.....	\$545 42
Cash from D. D. Wright, Treasurer,.....	2,375 00
" " Drawing Materials,.....	122 79
	————— \$3,043 21

DISBURSEMENTS.

Cash paid Superintendent and Teachers' Salaries,.....	\$2,567 50
" " Supplies and Repairs,.....	491 78
" " Insurance,.....	14 85
	————— \$3,074 13
Disbursements,.....	\$3,074 13
Receipts,	3,043 21
	—————

1874.

Dec. 30th. Due School Committee,.....	\$30 92
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Respectfully submitted.

ALEXANDER GAW,

Chairman.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

APPRENTICES' LIBRARY.

RECEIPTS.

Balance on hand, December 31st, 1873,.....	\$836 35
Received from D. D. Wright, Treasurer,.....	10,000 00
" " Fines,	947 57
" " Catalogues,.....	172 55
" " Pay Readers,.....	254 00
" " Books lost,.....	44 50
" " Waste Paper,.....	93 22
" " Surplus in Salaries,.....	4 22
	————— \$12,352 41

DISBURSEMENTS.

Paid for Books,.....	\$1,605 04
" " Binding,.....	606 42
" " Periodicals,.....	205 47
" " Printing Catalogues,.....	2,663 84
" " Binding Catalogues,.....	108 55

Paid for Account Books,	\$86 90
" " Printing and Advertising,.....	569 24
" " Stationery,.....	70 50
" " Paper for covering Books,.....	169 18
" " Fixtures and Repairs,.....	715 48
" " Wood and Coal,.....	208 50
" " Ice,	21 50
" " Whitewashing and Cleaning,.....	66 65
" " Salaries, Librarian and Assistants,.....	5,082 86
" " Collector,	105 50
" " Insurance,.....	337 50
" " Sundries,	166 24

	\$12,788 87
Amount due Treasurer of Committee,.....	\$436 46

DE MILT LIBRARY.

RECEIPTS.

Balance on hand, December 31st, 1873,.....	\$6 44
Cash from D. D. Wright, Treasurer,.....	300 00

	\$306 44

DISBURSEMENTS.

Paid for Books,.....	\$154 77
" " Periodicals,	6 55
" " Insurance,	93 60
" " Binding,.....	2 50

	\$257 42
Balance on hand, December 31st, 1874,.....	\$49 02

LIBRARIAN'S ANNUAL REPORT,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING AUGUST 1ST, 1874.

The number of Volumes in Apprentices' Library registered on new system to October 31st, 1873, was.....	38,919
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From which must be deducted :

Volumes condemned in August, 1873,.....	162
Delinquent books of 1871-72, having new numbers, not yet returned,.....	10

	172

Leaving the books registered on new system to October 31st,	
1873,.....	38,747
Added during the past year,.....	2,213
Total in Apprentices' Library, November 1st, 1874,.....	40,960

From this must be deducted :

Volumes condemned August, 1873, not previously reported,	10
Delinquent books of 1872-73, not yet returned,.....	63
Books in hands of readers of 1873-74,.....	281
Books lost and paid in 1873-74,.....	28
Books condemned in August, 1874,.....	514
	—
	896
Total number of Volumes in Library, November 1st, 1874,.....	40,064

The Library is arranged on the shelves in 230 classes and sub-classes ; and from an extended table comprising the number of volumes in each of these classes, the following abridgment has been formed :

1. General Works, (Cyclopædias, Periodicals, &c.,).....	1,277 Volumes.
2. Natural Sciences and Useful Arts,.....	2,899 "
3. Fine Arts, Poetry, Literature and Philology,.....	3,683 "
4. Prose Fiction,.....	14,749 "
5. Juvenile Literature,.....	3,475 "
6. History, Geography, Voyages and Travels,.....	5,891 "
7. Biography,.....	3,347 "
8. Political and Social Sciences,	1,176 "
9. Theology,.....	3,567 "
	—
Total,.....	40,064 Volumes.

The number of Volumes in De Milt Library, as last reported, was.....	4,657
Added during the year,.....	43

Total Volumes in De Milt Library,.....	4,700
Deduct Volumes transferred to Apprentices' Library,.....	8
Total Volumes in De Milt Library,.....	4,692

RECAPITULATION.

Volumes in Apprentices' Library, as reported above,.....	40,064
Add books still in hands of readers of 1873-74,.....	281

Add books laid aside in Store Room,.....	6,834
Total in Apprentices' Library,.....	47,179
Volumes in De Milt Library, as reported above,.....	4,692
Total in both Libraries,.....	51,871

Of the books added during the year :

1,605	were new books.
600	" books taken from Store Room or returned by readers.
8	" transferred from De Milt Library.
Total, 2,213	

The number of accounts opened with readers from September 1, 1873, to August 1, 1874, was as follows :

Apprentices,	3,847
Girls,.....	2,770
Pay Readers,.....	144
Members of the Society,.....	107
Total,	6,868

As compared with the previous season, there are :

Of Apprentices,....	798 less.	Members,.....	10 less.	Total,...	808 less.
" Girls,.....	385 more.	Pay Readers,....	30 more.	" ...	415 more.
Total,					393 less.

The number of volumes taken out by the readers, as appears by the following table, was 129,273, which, compared with the previous year, shows an increase of 17,995 more books this season, notwithstanding that there were 393 less readers, and showing an average of nearly 20 volumes per annum to each reader.

The table subjoined is condensed from a daily record, and gives only the results for each month :

	General Works, Natural Sciences and Useful Arts.	Fine Arts, Poetry, Literature and Philology.	Prose Fiction.	Juvenile Literature.	History, Travels, Biography, &c.	Political Sciences, Philosophy and Theology.	Total.	Number of Working Days.	Average per Day.
1873.									
Sept. 1 to Sept. 15	157	150	4,930	1,421	396	44	7,098	29 329 2-11	
“ 26 “ Oct. 30	270	275	8,362	2,253	580	86	11,826	30 394 1-5	
Oct. 31 “ Nov. 26	208	269	7,020	2,136	681	98	10,412	22 473 3-11	
Nov. 27 “ Dec. 31	334	432	9,545	2,859	997	125	14,292	28 510 3-7	
1874.									
Jan. 2 to Jan. 29	341	340	8,523	2,499	858	120	12,681	24 528 1-2	
“ 30 “ Feb. 27	346	363	8,021	2,448	824	125	12,127	23 527 6-23	
Feb. 28 “ Mch. 26	328	368	8,427	2,634	640	115	12,512	24 521 8-24	
Mch. 27 “ Apl. 30	361	439	9,801	3,424	874	131	15,030	30 501	
May 1 “ May 28	208	305	7,297	2,618	587	91	11,106	24 462 11-12	
“ 29 “ June 25	182	253	6,523	2,364	504	73	9,899	23 430 9-23	
June 26 “ July 30	221	236	7,200	2,605	531	102	10,895	29 375 20-29	
July 31 and Aug. 1	19	25	424	161	29	2	660	2 330	
Totals,	2,975	3,455	86,073	27,422	7,501	1,112	128,538	281 457 121-281	

To the total of 128,538 must be added 735 volumes read in the room, making a grand total of 129,273.

The following works have been presented during the year :

I. BOOKS.

UNITED STATES : Annual Report on State of Finances, Dec. 1, 1873. By W. A. Richardson, Secretary of the Treasury.

BY BROTHER WM. D. MURPHY, (the Author :)

The Advent, and other Poems and Hymns. 2 copies.

BY GEN. R. PATTERSON :

Campaign in the Valley of the Shenandoah.

BY REV. J. C. AGER, Chairman of Committee on Distribution, American Swedenborg Society :

Divine Providence, by E. Swedenborg.

True Christian Religion, “ “

Miscellaneous Theological Works, “ “

Four Leading Doctrines, “ “

Divine Love and Wisdom, “ “

Conjugal Love, “ “

Heaven and Hell, “ “

BY GEO. WILSON, Secretary Chamber of Commerce, N. Y.:

Sixteenth Annual Report of the Chamber of Commerce of the State of New-York, for 1873-74.

BY THOS. VICKERS, Librarian:

Catalogue of the Public Library of Cincinnati, 8vo., 1871.

BY THE PUBLIC LIBRARY CO. OF PHILADELPHIA, PA.:

Catalogue of the Books belonging to Library Company of Philadelphia, Vol. 3, 8vo., 1856.

BY BOARD OF HEALTH, NEW-YORK CITY:

Third Annual Report, 8vo., 1873.

BY PROF. JNO. LANGDON SIBLEY, Librarian:

Catalogue of the Library of Harvard University, 3 vols., 8vo., 1830.
Same. Supplement, 8vo., 1834.

BY W. BROTHERHEAD, Librarian, and Proprietor Brotherhead Library, Philadelphia:

Brotherhead Library Catalogue, 8vo., 1872.

BY JNO. W. M. LEE, Librarian Mercantile Library, Baltimore:

Catalogue of English Prose Fiction and Juvenile Literature, 8vo., 1874.

BY A. E. WHITAKER, Librarian:

Catalogue of the Mercantile Library Association of San Francisco, Cal., 8vo., 1874.

BY FRANKLIN EDSON, Esq., Pres't New-York Produce Exchange:

Annual Report of New-York Produce Exchange for year ending June 1, 1874, 8vo., 1874.

BY HON. DIEDRICH WILLERS, Jr., Secretary of State, Albany, N. Y.:

Assembly Journal, 96th Session, 2 vols., 8vo.

Assembly Documents, 1873, 9 vols., 8vo.

Senate Journal, 96th Session, 8vo.

Senate Documents, 1873, 5 vols., 8vo.

Laws of New-York, 97th Session, 8vo.

II. PAMPHLETS.

BY BROTHER GEO. W. BRUCE:

8th Supplement to Bruce's Abridged Specimen Book, 4to.

BY HON. DEXTER A. HAWKINS:

New-York City Council of Political Reform. Report on Compulsory Education.

BY W. F. POOLE, Librarian:

Sixth Annual Report of Public Library of Cincinnati.

BY A. E. WHITAKER, Librarian:

Twenty-first Annual Report of Mercantile Library Association of San Francisco, Cal.

BY WM. W. GREENOUGH, Esq.:

Annual Report of the Public Library of Quincy, Mass.:

BY J. W. M. LEE, Librarian:

Thirty-fourth Annual Report of Mercantile Library, Baltimore.

BY THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, NEW-YORK CITY:

Evidence before the Committee on Ways and Means Relative to Moieties and Customs—Revenue Laws.

BY HENRY A. HOMES, LL. D., Librarian:

Fifty-sixth Annual Report of the Trustees of the New-York State Library, for the year 1873.

BY CHAS. P. CHESTER:

The National Telegraph; a Complete Text-Book on Telegraphy.

BY THE MERCANTILE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, New-York City:

Fifty-third Annual Report.

BY WILSON M. POWELL, Secretary:

Annual Report of the New-York Infant Asylum.
Charter and By-Laws of the New-York Infant Asylum.

BY J. W. NYSTROM, Author:

Principles of Dynamics, 8vo.

BY E. N. COBURN, Esq., Charlestown, Mass.:

Address of Jonathan Stone, Mayor of Charlestown, to the City Council, January 6, 1873.

BY H. W. JONES, Corresponding Secretary:

Report of Guido Kustel, Commissioner to the Vienna Exposition of 1873, appointed by the Mechanics' Institute of San Francisco, Cal. 2 copies.

By A. R. CRISHOLM, Esq. :

Travellers' Official Railway Guide, February, 1874.

By MRS. F. S. GUTHRIE, Widow of the Author :

Oration on the Death of Abraham Lincoln. By Dr. W. E. Guthrie.
The Betrothed : a Nation's Vow. By Dr. W. E. Guthrie.

By F. B. POTTER, M. P., Hon. Sec. Cobden Club :

Free Trade and Free Enterprise. 3 copies.

By THE U. S. PATENT OFFICE, Washington, D. C. :

General Index of the Official Gazette and Monthly Volume of Patents, 1873.

By THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, Washington, D. C. :

Manchester Public Free Libraries. Index Catalogue of the Hulme Lending Branch, 2d ed., 1874.

By G. C. BRIGGS, Esq. :

True History of Jesus the Christ.

By HON. JNO. EATON, Commissioner of Education, Washington, D. C. :

Circulars of Information of the Bureau of Education, No. 1, 1874.

By J. VAN WOERT, Jr., Sec'y Young Men's Christian Association :

Twenty-first Annual Report.

By E. D. BABBITT, M. D., Author :

Vital Magnetism.

By A. W. SHELDON, Esq., Attorney and Gen'l Agent :

Twenty-ninth Annual Report of the Prison Association for 1873.

By J. BERRIEN LINDSLEY, M. D., D. D. :

On Prison Discipline and Penal Legislation.

By HENRY M. McLAREN, Secretary :

Eighth Annual Report of the Home for Incurables.

By JUSTIN WINDSOR, Superintendent :

Bulletin Nos. 28-31, Boston Public Library.

BY SOME PERSONS UNKNOWN:

Catalogue of Dry Goods, &c.

Ophthalmic Institute, N. Y. City. Fourth Annual Report.

U. S. Centennial Commission. Report on Structure erected for Vienna Exhibition, 1873,

Manchester (England) Public Libraries. 21st Annual Report.

Children's Aid Society, N. Y. 21st Annual Report.

Speech of S. S. Cox, M. C., on Education and Civil Rights Bills. Delivered Jan. 13, 1874.

Truth.

Report of the Civil Service Commission to the President, April 15, 1874.
2 copies.

Speech of Hon. S. S. Cox in House of Rep., May 16, 1874.

Alaska Herald for July 9, 1873, and March 13, May 13, May 28, June 29, and July 13, 1874.

Speech of Gen'l B. F. Butler, of Massachusetts, upon Frauds on the Revenue.

Denayrouse Diving Apparatus.

As will be seen by the preceding report of the Treasurer, there is an excess of \$436 $\frac{4}{100}$ in the expenditures over the receipts. This excess has been mainly caused by the publication of a new Catalogue during the past year, costing \$2,663 $\frac{3}{100}$. The last general Catalogue was published in 1865, when the Library numbered only 30,000 volumes, whereas it now comprises, as will be seen by the Report of the Librarian, nearly 52,000 volumes; consequently it formed but an imperfect guide for the readers' selection, and very inadequately represented the rich collection now at their disposal, added to which was the fact, that in its general construction and classification it was far behind what might reasonably have been expected from so large a Library as ours. But the principal reason that rendered the preparation and publication of a new Catalogue imperative, was this: During the year 1872-73 the whole of the Apprentices' Library, including the books purchased with the Lorillard bequest, were rearranged anew on the shelves, on a system invented by the Librarian, which, it is believed, is as perfect as any now in existence. An essential feature of this system consists of an ingenious method of notation, in consequence

of which all the books were re-numbered ; the Catalogue of 1865, of course, gave no clue to the new positions of the books on the shelves, and consequently a new one was prepared and published in September last, which, it is believed, is immeasurably superior to any former Catalogue of the Apprentices' Library in *plan, execution and typography*, and which compares favorably in all these respects with *any* Catalogue now published. The preface to the Catalogue, however, contains so full an explanation of the principles on which it is constructed, and the points wherein it differs from other Catalogues, and also of the system of arrangement of the books themselves, that we gladly refer any one interested in the subject thereto for further particulars.

While the Catalogue is a just source of pride to your Committee, they nevertheless regret that the whole burden of its cost should have fallen upon the appropriation for the past year's expense of maintaining the Library, as it has somewhat crippled their resources, and has prevented them from purchasing as many new books as they could have wished. Every precaution was taken to have the work done as economically as possible, estimates having been invited from the most prominent and reliable printers in the city, and the work awarded to the lowest bidder.

During the past year your Committee have also introduced an improved system of recording the books issued to readers, which, in its essential features, is similar to the system in use in the Mercantile Library in this city, the Public Library of Boston, and, in fact, in nearly all the prominent circulating libraries throughout the United States. At the same time, the system has been somewhat modified (without detriment to dispatch and accuracy) so as to furnish the same information as the system formerly used. An alteration in the counters and desks used for delivering books was necessary to introduce the system ; but as the services of one clerk have been dispensed

with since its introduction, the expense will be more than counterbalanced in one year, besides leaving a permanent annual saving of 600 dollars in the cost of running the Library.

The want of direct communication between the two galleries, and between the main floor and the galleries of the Library, has, of late years, since the marked increase of readers, been a serious drawback to the rapid delivery of books, and it was therefore thought necessary to connect them by means of a bridge and stairs. These improvements have been found to greatly facilitate the work, and have saved the employees a great deal of unnecessary labor, and your Committee therefore feel justified in the slight expense incurred in their erection.

The Committee to whom was referred the question of consolidating the De Milt and Apprentices' Libraries, presented their report to the Society at its meeting on the 7th of October last, which, together with the resolutions embraced therein, was adopted. They have transferred the books of the De Milt Library suitable for general circulation, and are now engaged in the work of recording, classifying and cataloguing the same, in accordance with the following resolutions as embodied in that report:

“Resolved, That it is deemed expedient, on account of the detail connected with keeping separate accounts of the De Milt Library, to merge the same into the Apprentices' Library in the following manner, and at the same time honor the provisions of the will by so doing, as follows :

“*First.* That all books transferred be marked in the Catalogue with a star, (*) and an explanation that they are the bequest, either literally or by purchase, of Benjamin, Elizabeth and Sarah De Milt to this Society.

“*Second.* That all valuable works in the Apprentices'

Library, and such books as are out of print in *both* Libraries, be marked with an asterisk, (†) and that an explanation in the Catalogue shall express that they can only be *consulted* in the Library as matter of reference.

“*Third.* That all books marked with a star (*) (meaning, as before stated, the De Milt Library,) can only be taken from the Library upon the payment of a nominal sum, say twenty-five cents per annum, thereby meeting the provisions of the will, ‘that it shall be a pay Library for ever.’

“*Fourth.* That all persons now paying, or who shall hereafter pay for the privilege of taking books from the Apprentices’ Library, shall be exempted from further payment when taking out books marked with a star.”

The books transferred will probably be ready for circulation in the course of the current Library year, and from an approximate count will comprise about 1,831 volumes, embracing the following subjects:

1. General Works and Natural Sciences,.....	170 vols.
2. Useful Arts,.....	109 “
3. Fine Arts, Poetry, Literature and Philology,.....	398 “
4. Prose Fiction,.....	78 “
5. History, Geography, Voyages and Travels,.....	526 “
6. Biography and Historical Miscellany,.....	201 “
7. Political and Social Sciences,.....	134 “
8. Philosophy,.....	49 “
9. Theology,	166 “
 Total,.....	 1,831 vols.

The volumes remaining consist of books of Reference, Public Documents, Periodicals, and books unsuitable by their bulk, cost, or rarity, or for some special reason difficult, if not impossible, of replacement, and comprise about 2,860 volumes, which will form the nucleus of the REFERENCE DEPARTMENT of the Library.

It will be seen by the foregoing report of the Librarian, that there is a decrease of nearly four hundred readers during the past year. The Committee attribute this falling off to the want of sufficient funds to supply the readers with new books, in consequence of the unusual expenses incurred during the year, as already explained, although the general stagnation of trade, which has thrown so many of the laboring classes out of employment, may have influenced the decrease. The Committee trust, however, that with the increased facilities introduced, the number of readers, in future, will reach, if not exceed, the usual average. Aided by the usual liberality of the Society, it is their intention to purchase largely of the newest and best literature, and place the same at the readers' disposal at the earliest practicable moment.

Respectfully submitted.

JOHN R. VOORHIS, *Chairman.*

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE.

RECEIPTS.

Balance on hand, Dec. 31, 1873,.....	\$1,084 82
Nov. 6. Received from D. D. Wright, Treasurer,..	1,000 00
	—————
	\$2,084 82

DISBURSEMENTS.

1874.

Jan'y 8. Paid Elihu Burritt, Lecturer,.....	\$75 00
“ 22. “ B. J. Lossing, “	50 00
Feb'y 5. “ Wendell Phillips, “	250 00
Nov. 12. “ Jno. B. Gough, “	250 00
Dec. 3. “ S. T. Sedgwick, “	100 00
“ 17. “ W. S. Andrews, “	125 00
“ G. Schultz, Organist,..	60 00
“ Steinway & Sons, rent of Hall,.....	480 00
“ Sundry expenses,.....	178 72
	—————
	\$1,569 72
Balance on hand, Dec. 31, 1874,.....	—————
	\$515 10

Respectfully submitted.

EDWIN DOBBS, *Chairman.*

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BUILDING AND SINKING FUND
COMMITTEE.**

Amount of Fund, December 31st, 1873,..... \$32,075 97

RECEIPTS.	
Appropriations by the Society,.....	\$5,325 25
Interest, Bowery Savings Bank,.....	100 45
" Dry Dock " "	57 84
" Corporation Bonds,.....	803 08
" U. S. 5-20 Stock in gold,.....	540 00
" U. S. 1881 " "	540 00
" Premium on gold,.....	118 76
	<hr/>
Total amount of Fund, Dec. 31, 1874,.....	\$39,561 35

The Building and Sinking Fund Committee present herewith their annual report, the increase thereof, shorn of its usual magnitude by the withholding by the Society, through their Treasurer, (temporarily it is hoped,) of one-half of the regularly legalized yearly appropriation, on account of reduced income of the Society.

The proportions, however, which this trust has assumed during the short period of less than four years since its inauguration, would seem to your Committee to commend it to the especial care and favor of the Society, and to the cheerful hope and well wishes of all who look to the Society for mental or material nourishment.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

ANDREW MILLS,
Chairman.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

General Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen OF THE CITY OF NEW-YORK,

FOR THE YEAR 1874.



The Finance Committee, in accordance with the By-Laws, respectfully submit the following report of the financial affairs of the Society, with a statement of its assets and liabilities, and estimates of its probable receipts and expenditures for the ensuing year:

Balance on hand, January 1st, 1874:

With the Treasurer,.....	\$55 73
" " in U. S. Trust Co.,.....	4,000 00
" " Finance Committee,.....	521 23
" " Pension " 	1,308 00
" " School " 	545 42
" " Library " 	842 79
" " Literary and Scientific Committee,.....	1,084 82
" " Building and Sinking Fund " 	32,075 97

	\$40,433 96
Received by Treasurer, since last Report,	\$34,759 31
" " Library Committee,.....	1,516 06
" " School " 	122 79
" " Building and Sinking Fund Committee,.....	2,160 13

	38,558 29

	\$78,992 25

There has been expended during the year—

By Treasurer, as per Report,.....	\$4,389 75
" Finance Committee, as per Report,.....	2,937 09
" Pension " " " "	7,744 00
" School " " " "	3,074 13
" Library " " " "	12,788 87
" " " " De Milt Library,.....	257 42
" Literary and Scientific Committee,.....	1,569 72
	—————
	\$32,760 98
	—————
	\$46,231 27

ASSETS.

Amount with Treasurer,.....	\$175 04
" " " " in Trust Co,.....	4,500 00
" " " " Finance Committee,.....	334 14
" " " " " Pension "	1,564 00
" " " " " Library " " De Milt Library,..	49 02
" " " " " " Literary and Scientific Committee,....	515 10
" " " " " " " Building and Sinking Fund " "	39,561 35
	—————
	\$46,698 65
Due Library Committee,	\$436 46
" " " " School	30 92
	—————
	467 38
	—————
Real Estate, Park Place and Broadway,.....	\$46,231 27
" " " " Crosby-street and Broadway,.....	300,000 00
Mechanics' National Bank, par value,.....	125,000 00
United States Bonds, " "	20,275 00
Furniture,.....	43,000 00
Books in Library,.....	1,000 00
Leasehold, No. 12 Chambers-street,.....	40,000 00
	—————
	\$579,506 27

LIABILITIES.

Amount due Library Fund,.....	\$1,907 66
" " " De Milt Library,.....	5,000 00
" " " " Interest,.....	300 00
" " " " for improvement of De Milt Library,.....	300 00
	—————
	\$7,507 66

ESTIMATE OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES FOR THE YEAR 1875.

ESTIMATED RECEIPTS.

Rent of Park Place and Broadway,.....	\$24,100 00
" " No. 12 Chambers-street,.....	3,000 00
" " Broadway and Crosby-street,.....	4,000 00
Dividend on Mechanics' National Bank stock,.....	2,027 50
Interest on U. S. stock and other securities,.....	5,000 00
Initiation,.....	900 00
	—————
	\$39,027 50

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES.

Finance Committee,.....	\$4,000 00
Committee on Pensions,.....	8,000 00
School Committee,.....	2,500 00
Library Committee, including interest on Fund,.....	10,000 00
" " " De Milt Library,.....	300 00
Literary and Scientific Committee,.....	2,000 00
Taxes and Croton Water rents,.....	1,700 00
Ground rent, No. 12 Chambers-street,.....	125 00
Salaries of Treasurer, Secretary, Janitor and Door- keeper,.....	1,760 00
	—————
	\$30,385 00

Respectfully submitted.

JOHN T. CONOVER,	}
NOAH WORRALL,	
A. F. OCKERSHAUSEN,	
MATTHIAS BLOODGOOD,	
GEORGE I. BYRD,	
HAVILAH M. SMITH,	
DANIEL D. WRIGHT,	

Finance Committee.

MECHANICS' HALL, *January 31st, 1875.*

INAUGURAL ADDRESS
OF
WILLIAM OTIS MUNROE, Esq.
PRESIDENT OF THE
General Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen,
OF THE CITY OF NEW-YORK.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

BROTHERS :

An examination of our proceedings for past years has called my attention to a custom of former Presidents, to inaugurate their official relations with the Society by a brief reference to our history, position and prospects. I am at a loss to determine, at this time, which of these points should be most prominently brought before your consideration.

Our position among the great associations of to-day is well defined. The little organization of 1785 has become a great power in our Metropolitan Society of 1875. Its prosperity has kept pace with the marvellous growth of our great city. Its efficiency, though not so great as we hope for at a future day, is a subject of congratulation. Its system of instruction by classes, aided by those powerful adjuncts of education, the Public Library and Public Lectures, is comprehensive enough to be in keeping with the spirit of the age. Recognising the relations of skilled handicraft to the prosperity of a nation, our Society, among an industrious and free people, has done its part to assert and maintain the dignity of labor.

The report of the Finance Committee exhibits the material prosperity of the Society, and it is entirely unnecessary for me to recall the figures and statistics in this brief address, although it may not be out of place

to ask ourselves whether our work is as effective as it should be with such a fund at our command.

The purposes of our organization are too well known to make it necessary for me to allude to them, unless it be to urge upon you an increased effort to carry them out according to the letter and spirit of our history. What we have done in the past, and the satisfaction our good works have given us, should be an incentive to more zealous endeavors during future years. Our Society is to-day recognised by the community as a civilizing and cultivating force, and it is our duty to see to it, that it shall continue to strengthen its position and influence, among the educational institutions of our city and of our time.

The several reports submitted for your consideration, at this time, contain matter, that may, perhaps, be suggestive of such modification as our previously adopted systems may require, in order to make our work as effective as the advancing wants of our city may demand of us, or as may be productive of a more successful accomplishment of those ends and purposes with which we long ago set out.

It is not my purpose, however, at the moment of assuming this official relation, to urge any plan other than that heretofore pursued, or to suggest changes in any of our departments of usefulness. At the same time, I shall reserve to myself the privilege of recommending, from time to time, as opportunity may permit or occasion suggest, whatever may appear proper to be done to keep our Society in the path of progress, and to give such direction to its efforts as shall make it, emphatically, a powerful agent in the advancement of art, science and morals.

Brothers: Our Society is strong in a membership selected from the most active and intelligent men of this our beloved city; we are rich in this world's goods; our councils are distinguished by harmony and good

feeling ; we have every reason to feel proud of our antecedents, as shown in our history ; we rejoice that we have been enabled to do much good in the past ; we feel that we have travelled in the right direction to accomplish good, and that our charities have not been stinted ; then let us encourage each other ; let us animate one another by the remembrance of an honorable past—by the confidence in our own present strength—by our dearest hopes of a bright future, let us resolve here to take such counsel together, that the generations which are to come after us may commend our zeal and spirit, as we, to-day, give credit to the noble men of the past, who did *their* utmost to start us on our way.

And now, brothers, let me thank you for the honor you have been pleased to confer upon me. Appreciating highly, as I ought to appreciate, the honor of being called upon to preside over your deliberations, and sensible of the dignity which my predecessors have conferred upon this office, I will endeavor, to the utmost of my ability, to deserve the confidence you have reposed in me.

Finally, my brothers, may the present year be one of pleasure and profit to us all—may our Schools continue to be as efficient as they have been—may our Libraries be as well attended—our Literary and Scientific course as popular and as instructive—our charities as abundant as the wants of those having claims upon our benevolence—and let us feel that our highest aim should be to secure to our ancient and honorable Society the approbation of the wise, the earnest and the good, by our unceasing efforts to promote the welfare and happiness of those we represent, and the growing generation who are looking to us for guidance and assistance. While such are the objects we have in view, we may rely with confidence upon the blessing of the Author of all good—the God and Father of us all.



Standing Committees.

1875.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

JOHN T. CONOVER, *Chairman*, 312 West Twenty-Eighth Street.
GEORGE I. BYRD, *Secretary*, 6 West Twenty-Ninth Street.
NOAH WORRALL, 28 Elm Street.
ADOLPHUS F. OCKERSHAUSEN, 280 South Street.
HENRY WILSON, 326 East Eighteenth Street.
EDWIN DOBBS, *Second Vice-President, ex officio*.
DANIEL D. WRIGHT, *Treasurer of the Society, ex officio*.

[Meet Monthly, on the last Friday in each month, at 4 o'clock, P. M.]

COMMITTEE ON PENSIONS.

ANDREW HUTTON, *Chairman*, 349 West Twenty-Second Street.
GEORGE B. BILLERWELL, *Secretary*, 224 West Houston Street
JOHN A. WEEKS, 475 West Twenty-Second Street.
JACOB C. BOGERT, 68 Bank Street.
JOHN NICHOL, 52 Perry Street.
HAMILTON R. SEARLES, 178 West Eleventh Street.
HENRY R. WARNER, 127 Worth Street.
OLIVER A. FARRIN, 13 Leroy Street.

[Meet on the Monday next before the Regular Meetings of the Society, at $7\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock, P. M., and on the 15th and 16th of February, May, August and November, at 2 o'clock, P. M.]

SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

ALEXANDER GAW, *Chairman*, 215 Mercer Street.
WILLIAM T. PETERSON, *Treasurer*, 144 Broadway.
NILES G. WHITE, *Secretary*, 340 Madison Street.
ABRAHAM McBRIDE, 269 West Eleventh Street.
HENRY H. WINANS, 71 Wall Street.
JOHN C. CARSON, 109 Perry Street.
THOMAS D. STETSON, 16 Murray Street.
WILLIAM MILES, *Savings Bank*, Astor Place.
SAMUEL McCOLLOUGH, 109 Leroy Street.
DANIEL HERBERT, 215 East Forty-Eighth Street.
JOHN M. MOFFITT, 670 Hudson Street.
JACOB S. BROWNE, 10 Van Nest Place.
WILLIAM OTIS MUNROE, *President, ex officio*.

[Meet Monthly, on the Wednesday next before the Regular Meetings of the Society, at $7\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock, P. M.]

LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

JOHN R. VOORHIS, *Chairman*, 786 Greenwich Street.
 ALBERT G. BOGERT, *Treasurer*, 59 Christopher Street.
 WILLIAM H. BURRAS, *Secretary*, 52 King Street.
 STEPHEN S. CHATTERTON, 116 Maiden Lane.
 WADE B. WORRALL, 28 Elm Street.
 RICHARD POILLON, 234 South Street.
 JOHN H. WAYDELL, 21 Old Slip.
 ABISHA S. DICKINSON, 443 West Fourteenth Street.
 JOHN J. TUCKER, 37 West Twelfth Street.
 SAMUEL P. PATTERSON, 122 Bowery.
 HENRY MOORE, 41 King Street.
 WILLIAM C. SMITH, 61 Perry Street.
 HAVILAH M. SMITH, *First Vice-President, ex officio.*

[Meet Monthly, on the Friday next before the Regular Meetings of the Society, at 8 o'clock, P. M.]

LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE.

MARC EIDLITZ, *Chairman*, 24 Murray Street.
 JOHN BANTA, *Treasurer*, " "
 FREDERICK H. GROSZ, *Secretary*, 44 East Twenty-First Street.
 DAVID JARDINE, 1267 Broadway.
 JOHN W. MORGAN, 152 West Twelfth Street.
 JOHN M. DODD, JR., 412 East Fifty-First Street.
 JOSEPH SMITH, 215 East Eleventh Street.
 JAMES J. BURNET, 27 Park Place.
 JOHN H. ROGERS, 24 Murray Street.
 HENRY L. SLOTE, 93 Fulton Street.
 MARTIN R. ROOME, 63 Thompson Street.
 JOHN DOWNEY, 61 West Forty-Fifth Street.
 WILLIAM OTIS MUNROE, *President, ex officio.*

[Meet on the third Monday of February, March, April, May, September, October, November and December, at 8 o'clock, P. M.]

BUILDING AND SINKING FUND COMMITTEE.

ANDREW MILLS, *Chairman*, 215 Second Avenue.
 JOHN PALMER, *Secretary*, 136 West Forty-Eighth Street.
 DANIEL D. WRIGHT, 463 East Houston Street.

GEORGE W. WALKER, *Doorkeeper*.
 JACOB SCHWARTZ, JR., *Librarian*, 472 Broadway.
 HENRY C. AUDIE, *Janitor*, "

[Regular Meetings of the Society, first Wednesday evening of each month, except July and August, or if falling upon a legal holiday, then on the following Wednesday evening.]